

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The adhesive composition of claim 1A~~ multiple component liquid plastisol/hot melt hybrid adhesive composition comprised of a reinforcing phase component and an adsorbent phase component, both as heterogeneously dispersed particulates within a liquid component, wherein the reinforcing phase component is substantially incompatible with the liquid component, the adsorbent phase component is compatible or substantially more compatible with the liquid component than is the reinforcing phase component, and the reinforcing phase and adsorbent phase components are partially compatible with one another, the composition being chlorine free and having the rheological characteristics of a liquid dispersion at room temperature and being capable of forming a molten blend at elevated temperatures that solidifies into a non-exuding solid adhesive upon cooling, wherein the dispersed particulates are comprised of a core surrounded by a shell, the core being comprised of substantially the same matter as that which comprises the reinforcing phase component in the fused, solid adhesive, and the shell being comprised of substantially the same matter as that which comprises the adsorbent phase component in the fused, solid adhesive.

Claims 4-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The adhesive composition of claim 1A~~ multiple component liquid plastisol/hot melt hybrid adhesive composition comprised of a reinforcing phase component and an adsorbent phase component, both as

heterogeneously dispersed particulates within a liquid component, wherein the reinforcing phase component is substantially incompatible with the liquid component, the adsorbent phase component is compatible or substantially more compatible with the liquid component than is the reinforcing phase component, and the reinforcing phase and adsorbent phase components are partially compatible with one another, the composition being chlorine free and having the rheological characteristics of a liquid dispersion at room temperature and being capable of forming a molten blend at elevated temperatures that solidifies into a non-exuding solid adhesive upon cooling, where the reinforcing phase component is comprised of either one or more in combination of a poly(ethylene-co-vinylacetate) copolymer having a VA level of greater than 1% but less than 18%, a poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate-co-acrylic acid) terpolymer having a VA level of greater than 1% but less than 18% and an acrylic acid level of less than 8%, a poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate-co-methacrylic acid) terpolymer having a VA level of greater than 1% but less than 18% and a methacrylic acid level of less than 8%, a poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate-co-maleic anhydride) block or graft terpolymer having a VA level of greater than 1% but less than 18% and a maleic anhydride level of less than 8%, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~The adhesive composition of claim 1A~~ multiple component liquid plastisol/hot melt hybrid adhesive composition comprised of a reinforcing phase component and an adsorbent phase component, both as heterogeneously dispersed particulates within a liquid component, wherein the reinforcing phase component is substantially incompatible with the liquid component, the adsorbent phase component is compatible or substantially more compatible with the liquid component than is the reinforcing phase component, and the reinforcing phase and adsorbent phase components are partially compatible with one another, the composition being chlorine free and having the rheological characteristics of a liquid dispersion at room temperature and being capable of forming a molten blend at elevated temperatures that solidifies into a non-exuding solid adhesive upon cooling, wherein the reinforcing phase component forms a core of a core-shell particle and is comprised of either one or more in combination of a poly(ethylene-co-vinylacetate)

copolymer having a VA level of greater than 1% but less than 50%, a poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate-co-acrylic acid) terpolymer having a VA level of greater than 1% but less than 50% and an acrylic acid level of less than 8%, a poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate-co-methacrylic acid) terpolymer having a VA level of greater than 1% but less than 50% and a methacrylic acid level of less than 8%, a poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate-co-maleic anhydride) block or graft terpolymer having a VA level of greater than 1% but less than 50% and a maleic anhydride level of less than 8%, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~The adhesive composition of claim 1A~~ multiple component liquid plastisol/hot melt hybrid adhesive composition comprised of a reinforcing phase component and an adsorbent phase component, both as heterogeneously dispersed particulates within a liquid component, wherein the reinforcing phase component is substantially incompatible with the liquid component, the adsorbent phase component is compatible or substantially more compatible with the liquid component than is the reinforcing phase component, and the reinforcing phase and adsorbent phase components are partially compatible with one another, the composition being chlorine free and having the rheological characteristics of a liquid dispersion at room temperature and being capable of forming a molten blend at elevated temperatures that solidifies into a non-exuding solid adhesive upon cooling, where the adsorbent phase component forms a shell of a core-shell particle and is comprised of either one or more in combination of a polypropylene homopolymer, a polypropylene copolymer, a poly(propylene-co-ethylene) copolymer, a poly(propylene-co-maleic anhydride) block or graft copolymer, a polyethylene polymer, stearic acid, palmitic acid, lauric acid, benzoic acid, sebacic acid, dodecanedioic acid, azelaic acid, adipic acid, phthalic acid, a pentaerythritol rosin ester, a terpene resin, a glycerol rosin ester, a polycaprolactone, a hydrocarbon wax, or mixtures thereof.

Claims 14-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~The adhesive composition of claim 1A~~ a multiple component liquid plastisol/hot melt hybrid adhesive composition comprised of a reinforcing phase component and an adsorbent phase component, both as heterogeneously dispersed particulates within a liquid component, wherein the reinforcing phase component is substantially incompatible with the liquid component, the adsorbent phase component is compatible or substantially more compatible with the liquid component than is the reinforcing phase component, and the reinforcing phase and adsorbent phase components are partially compatible with one another, the composition being chlorine free and having the rheological characteristics of a liquid dispersion at room temperature and being capable of forming a molten blend at elevated temperatures that solidifies into a non-exuding solid adhesive upon cooling, where the adsorbent phase component is comprised of a compound that imparts release characteristics to a finished article formed from the composition.

Claim 20 (original): The adhesive composition of claim 19 where the adsorbent phase component is comprised of N,N'-ethylenebisstearamide.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): A multiple component liquid plastisol/hot melt hybrid adhesive composition comprised of heterogeneously dispersed particulates within a liquid phase component, where said composition has the rheological characteristics of a liquid dispersion at room temperature, and where said composition can be fused at elevated temperatures to form a molten blend that solidifies into a solid adhesive upon cooling; wherein said adhesive is comprised of a poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate) reinforcing phase component; a poly(propylene-co-maleic anhydride) adsorbent phase component; a mineral oil liquid phase component; a thermal stabilizer; and a dicarboxylic acid compound.

Claim 23 (original): The adhesive composition of claim 22 where the adsorbent phase is further comprised of polypropylene.

Claim 24 (original): The adhesive composition of claim 22, wherein the dicarboxylic acid compound is comprised of sebacic or dodecanedioic acid.

Claim 25 (original): The adhesive composition of claim 22, wherein the dicarboxylic acid compound is dispersed or dissolved in the liquid phase of the liquid dispersion.

Claim 26 (original): The adhesive composition of claim 22 further comprised of at least partially exfoliated nanoparticles.

Claim 27 (original): The adhesive composition of claim 22 further comprised of a chemical foaming agent.

Claim 28 (original): The adhesive composition of claim 22 wherein the dispersed particulates are comprised of a mixture of separate and chemically discrete particulate types; where at least one of the particulate types is comprised of substantially the same matter as that which comprises the reinforcing phase component in the fused, solid adhesive; and where at least one of the particulate types is comprised of substantially the same matter as that which comprises the adsorbent phase component in the fused, solid adhesive.

Claims 29- 63 (canceled)